

UA 153/00

Fear for**MEXICORaymundo Nava Ventura****Onésimo Gil Pérez, leader, *Coordinadora Campesina y de Organizaciones Sociales*****Margarito Eugenio Rufina****Gabino Eugenio Manuel****Victoriano Eugenio Manuel****Eugenio Eugenio Neri****17 others, all from three indigenous communities in the municipality of Ayutla de los Libres, Guerrero state**

An army black list, naming 23 alleged members of an armed opposition group, is reportedly being circulated by the security forces in Guerrero state. People accused of links with armed opposition groups have faced arbitrary detention, torture and "disappearance".

The list names alleged members of the *Ejército Popular Revolucionario* (EPR), Popular Revolutionary Army. It includes 18 people from Barranca de Guadalupe, a community in the municipality of Ayutla de los Libres, as well as a leader and other members of the *Coordinadora Campesina y de Organizaciones Sociales* (CCOS), Coordinating Group of Peasant Farmers and Social Organizations. It was shown to a CCOS member by a local government official in May 2000.

Local human rights defenders fear that the list was drawn up by military intelligence, together with members of the neighbouring community, La Unificada. La Unificada was formed by supporters of the ruling *Partido Revolucionario Institucional* (PRI), Party of the Institutionalized Revolution, when they broke away from Barranca de Guadalupe in January 1999. Members of La Unificada are reported to have worked closely with army units stationed in the municipality of Ayutla de los Libres in a campaign of threats and harassment of Barranca de Guadalupe residents. These incidents have been reported to the authorities, who have apparently taken no action.

Amnesty International is concerned that the authorities are exploiting divisions within the local communities so that political opponents of the ruling PRI can be labelled as members of armed opposition groups. In the past such accusations have led to arbitrary arrests, torture, "disappearances" and extrajudicial executions.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Political violence is endemic in Guerrero, one of the 32 states that make up the Mexican federation. There is a heavy military presence in the state, ostensibly to combat armed opposition groups and drug trafficking. This, together with the armed opposition groups themselves, has contributed to the grave human rights situation in the state. The army's tacit support for followers of the ruling PRI often makes divisions within local communities worse. Tensions are particularly high in the run-up to the presidential elections, to be held on 2 July.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in Spanish or your own language:

- expressing concern that a "black list" is being circulated which names 23 alleged members of the *Ejército Popular Revolucionario* (EPR), including 18 members of the community of Barranca de Guadalupe;
- urging the authorities to take all steps deemed appropriate by those named on the list to guarantee their safety;

- calling for prompt, independent and exhaustive investigations into the circulation of this list and the threat that it poses to those named;
- reminding the authorities of their obligation to ensure the respect of international human rights standards in the conduct of all counter-insurgency operations.

APPEALS TO:

Please note that fax numbers can be difficult to obtain and fax machines are often switched off outside office hours. If you do not get through, please try again later. If a voice answers, say, "el tono de fax, por favor."

President of the Republic

Dr. Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de León,
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Salutation: Señor Presidente / Mr President

Attorney General of the Republic

Lic. Jorge Madrazo Cuellar
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Salutation: Señor Procurador General/Dear Attorney General

Governor of Guerrero state

Lic. René Juárez Cisneros
Gobernador del Estado de Guerrero
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Salutation: Señor Gobernador / Dear Governor

Governmental National Human Rights Commission

Dr. José Luis Soberanes Fernández,
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Salutation: Estimado Dr. Soberanes / Dear Dr. Soberanes

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Non-governmental human rights organization

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MEXICO

and to diplomatic representatives of Mexico accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 20 July 2000.